

# EPIGRAMS

Both

~~H. 32. b. 25.~~

PLEASANT AND  
SERIOUS,

*Written by that All-Worthy Knight,*  
Sir I O H N H A R R I N G T O N :

And neuer before Printed.

*Pro capto Lectoris habent sua fata libelli.*



LONDON

Imprinted for *Iohn Budge*, and are to be sold at his  
shoppe at the South dore of *Pauls*, and  
at *Britaines Burse*.

1615.









TO THE TRVLV  
NOBLE, VERTVOVS,  
and worthy of all Honour;  
WILLIAM Earle of Pembroke,  
*Knight of the Honourable Order of*  
the GARTER.

*Right Honourable :*



OVR *Sidneian* bloud,  
and your famed fauour  
to now despised Poesy,  
challenge the dedica-  
tiō of these Epigrams.  
Better then these, none  
yet haue put on an  
English habit: and  
therefore deserue an  
Honourable Patron.

Report deliuers of the  
Renowned *Sidney* (whose bloud you haue, whose ver-  
tues you inherite) that the most vnfiled worke, the  
poorest hand could offer vp, hee receyued with  
thanks, making the loue of the man, to supply the  
worth. My hope, if not beliefe, tels me, that your



# The Epistle Dedicatory.

Lordship will doe the like by me, and graciously accept of this booke, which the loue of a poore man presumes to present vnto you. Read then, great Lord, and reading approue the workes of this no meane Poet, whom it can bee no dishonour to your Honour to protect. I conclude my Epistle with this prayer, that what is best for you in this world, you may enioy before, and aboue your wish, and that at last you may euerlastingly liue in that other world, whither the emulation of your Lordships vertues will lead a troupe of foules.

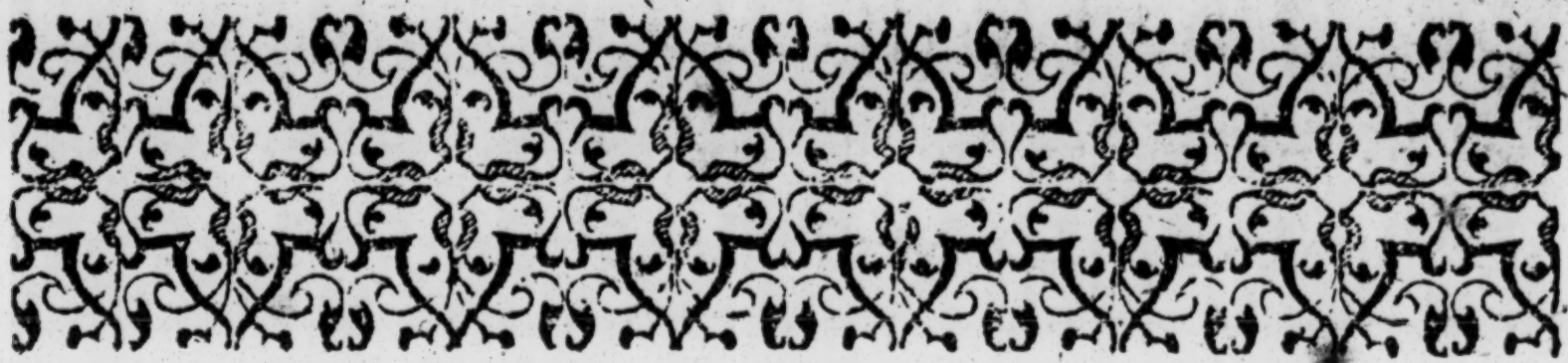
Your Lordships most humble

seruant to obey your

command,

*I. B.*





To the Reader.



*Hy should I penne the prayſes of the Author? Is not his name a ſufficient Apology? His mad Orlando will fight for him, and with blowes of rent-up Oakes, beat downe all opinions that dare take armes againſt the faireneſſe of his Fame. If Orlando neyther would, nor could defend him: yct his knowledged learning would inuite ſome well tempered ſpirit, to tell the world that his worth is not buried with his body. What the graue could containe, it now hath: his immortall part it could not encloſe; that is returned to a larger place, from whence at firſt it ſet forth a Pilgrime: Yet before it fled hence, it recorded in the memories of men, the vertues it was indued with, and the actions which thoſe vertues brought forth, which the laſt age ſhall not forget. As for theſe enſuing Epigrams, I will ſay nothing, but that they ſay enough for themſelues. Some one of them it may be, will not pleaſe ſome one man. What wonder? ſeuerall pallates require diuerſity of ſawces. One or other they will all pleaſe, and therefore my confidence chargeth mee to write not one word more: but Adieu.*









# EPIGRAMS

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*To an ill Reader.*

<sup>1</sup> **T**He verses, *Sextus*, thou doest read, are mine;  
But with bad reading thou wilt make them thine.

---

*In lectorem inuidum.*

<sup>2</sup> **W**Ho read's our verse with visage fowre & grim,  
I wish him enuy me, none enuy him.

---

*Of Table friends.*

<sup>3</sup> **Y**ou thinke his faith is firme, his friendship stable,  
Whose first acquaintance grew but at your Table:  
He loues your venison, snytes, quailles, larkes, not  
Make mee such fare, and take my friendship too. (you:

---

*The Author to his Wife, of partition.*

<sup>4</sup> **S**ome Ladies with their Lords diuide their state,  
And liue so when they list, at seuerall rate;  
But I'll indure thee, *Mall*, on no condition,  
To sue with me a writ of such partition.  
Twice seuen yeares since, most solemnly I vowd,

With



EPIGRAMS.

With all my worldly goods I thee endow'd,  
Then house, plate, stuffe, not part, but all is thine:  
Yet so, that thou, and they, and all are mine.  
Then let me go, and sue my writ of dotage,  
If I with thee part house, or close, or cottage.  
For where this is my Lords, and that my Ladies,  
There some perhaps, thinke likewise of their Babies.

---

*Of Treason.*

5 **T** Reason doth neuer prosper, whats the reason?  
For if it prosper, none dare call it Treason.

---

*Of the warres in Ireland.*

6 **I** Prais'd the speech, but cannot now abide it,  
That war is sweet, to those that haue not try'd it:  
For I haue proou'd it now, and plainly see't,  
It is so sweet, it maketh all thinges sweet.  
At home Canary wines and Greeke grew lothsome:  
Here milke is Nectar, water tasteth toothsome.  
There without bak't, rost, boyld, it is no cheere.  
Bisket we like, and Bonny Clabbo heere.  
There we complaine of one reare rosted chicke:  
Here viler meat, worse cookt, ne're makes me sicke.  
At home in silken sparuers, beds of Down,  
We scant can rest, but still tosse vp and downe:  
Heere I can sleepe, a saddle to my pillow,  
A hedge the Curtaine, Canopy a Willow.  
There if a Child but cry, oh what a spite!  
Heere we can brooke three larums in one night.  
There homely roomes must be perfum'd with Roses:  
Heere match and powder ne're offends our noses.  
There from a storme of raine wee run like Pullets,  
Heere we stand fast against a showre of Bullets.



## EPIGRAMS.

Loe then how greatly their opinions erre,  
That thinke there is no great delight in warre:  
But yet for this (sweet war) Ile be thy debter,  
I shall for euer loue my home the better.

---

*Of women learned in the Tongues.*

6 **Y**ou wisht me to a wife, fayre, rich and young,  
That had the Latine, French and Spanish tongue.  
I thank't and told you, I desir'd none such,  
And said; One Language may be tongue too much.  
Then loue I not the learned? yes, as my life;  
A learned Mistris, not a learned wife.

---

*The Author to his wife, of the twelue Signes, how  
they gouerne.*

7 **M**Arke heere (my *Mal*) how in this dozen lines,  
Thus placed are the twelue celestiaall signes:  
And first the *Ram* beares rule in head and face,  
The stiffe-neckt *Bull* in necke doth hold his place:  
And *Twins* mine arme and hands doe both imbrace.  
Then *Cancer* keepes the small ribs and the brest,  
And *Leo* backe and heart hath aye possessest.  
Then *Virgo* claimes the entrailes and the panch,  
*Libra* the nauell, reynes and eyther hanch.  
*Scorpio* pretends power in the priuy parts.  
Both thighes are preste with *Sagittaries* darts  
Then *Capricorn* to knees his force doth send.  
*Aquarius* doth to legs his vertue lend.  
*Pisces* beneath vnto the feet descend.  
Thus each part is possessest; now tell me, *Mal*,  
Where lies thy part? in which of these? in all.  
In all? content. Yet sure thou art more iealous  
Of *Leo's* part and *Scorpio's*, then their fellowes.



## EPIGRAMS.

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### *Against Swearing.*

8 **I**N elder time an ancient custome was,  
To sweare in waighty matters by the Masse.  
But when the Masse went downe (as old men note)  
They sware then, by the Crosse of this same grote.  
And when the Crosse was likewise held in scorne,  
Then by their faith, the common oth was sworn:  
Last hauing sworne awaie all faith and troth,  
Only God dam'n them is their common oth.  
Thus custom kept decorum by gradation,  
That losing Masse, Crosse, Faith, they find damnation.

---

### *Of little Pitty.*

9 **W**Hen noble *Essex*, *Blunt* and *Danvers* died,  
One saw them suffer that had heard the tried:  
And sighing, said; when such braue souldiers  
Is't not great pittie thinke you? no, said I: dye,  
There is no man of sense in all the city,  
Will say, 'Tis great, but rather little pittie.

---

### *A question of Lazarus soule, well answered.*

10 **O**Nce on occasion two good friends of mine  
Did meet at meat, a Lawyer and Diuine;  
Both hauing eaten well, to helpe digestion,  
To the Diuine, the Lawyer put this question:  
When *Lazarus* in graue foure dayes did stay,  
Where was his soule? in heau'n or in hel? I pray;  
Was it in hell? thence no redemption is,  
And if in Heau'n, would Christ abate his blisse  
Sir (said the Preacher) for a short digression,  
First answer me one poynt of your profession.  
If *Lazarus* and his sonne had fall'n to strife,  
Whose was the land when he came back to life  
This later question mou'd them al to laughter:  
And so they dranke one to another after.



## EPIGRAMS.

*Of the games that haue beene in request at the Court.*

11 **I** Heard one make a pretty Obseruation, (shion,  
How games haue in the Court turn'd with the fa-  
The first game was the best, when free from crime,  
The Courtly gaimsters all were in their Prime:  
The second game was Post, vntill with posting  
They paid so fast, 'twas time to leaue their boasting.  
Then thirdly follow'd heauing of the Maw,  
A game without Ciuility or Law,  
An odious play, and yet in Court oft seene,  
A sawcy knaue to trump both King and Queene.  
Then follow'd Lodam, hand to hand or quarter,  
At which some maids so ill did kepe the quarter,  
That vnexpected, in a short abode  
They could not cleanly beare away their lode.  
Now Nody followed next, as well it might,  
Although it should haue gone before of right.  
At which I saw, I name not any body,  
One neuer had the knaue, yet laid for Nody.  
The last game now in vse is Bankerout,  
Which will be plaid at still, I stand in doubt,  
Vntill *Lanolta* turne the wheele of time,  
And make it come about againe to Prime.

*The Author to Queene Elizabeth in praise of her reading.*

12 **F** Or euer deare, for euer dreaded Prince,  
You read a verse of mine a little since,  
And so pronounst each word and euery letter,  
Your Gracious reading grac't my verse the better.  
Sith then your Highnes doth by gift exceeding,  
Make what you read, the better in your reading,  
Let my poore muse your paines thus farre importune,  
To leaue to read my verse, and read my fortune.



## EPIGRAMS.

### *Of King Henries wooing.*

13 **V**Nto a stately great outlandish Dame,  
A Messenger from our King *Henry* came.  
(*Henry* of famous memory the eight)  
To treat with her in matter of great weight;  
As namely, how the King did seeke her marriage,  
Because of her great vertue and good carriage.  
She (that had heard the King lou'd change of pasture)  
Repli'd, I humbly thanke the King your Master,  
And would (such loue his fame in me hath bred,)  
My body venter so, but not my head.

### *Two witty answeres of Bishoppe Bonner.*

14 **B**onner, that late had Bishop beene of London,  
Was bid by one, *Good morrow Bishop quondam* :  
He with the scoffe no whit put out of temper,  
Reply'd incontinent, *Adieu knaue serper*.  
Another in such kind of scoffing speeches,  
Would beg his tippet, needs, to line his breeches,  
Not so (quoth he) but it may be thy hap,  
To haue a fooles head to line thy cap.

### *Of Lynus borrowing.*

15 **L**ynus came late to me sixe crowns to borrow,  
And sware God damnhim, he'd repai't to morow  
I knew his word as current as his band,  
And straight I gaue to him three crownes in hand:  
This I to giue, this he to take was willing,  
And thus he gaine'd, and I sau'd fiftene shilling.

### *A good answere of Poet Dant to an Atheist.*

16 **T**He pleasant learn'd *Italian Poet Dant*,  
Hearing an Atheist at the Scriptures iest,  
Askt him in iest which was the greatest beast?  
He simply sayd; he thought an Elephant.

Then



## EPIGRAMS.

Then *Elephant* (quoth *Dant*) it were commodious,  
That thou wouldst hold thy peace, or get thee hence,  
Breeding our Conscience scandall and offence  
With thy prophan'd speech, most vile and odious.

Oh Italy, thou breedst but few such *Dants*,  
I would our England bred no Elephants.

---

### *Of Quintus Almes.*

17 **W**Hen *Quintus* walketh out into the street,  
As soon as with some beggar he doth meet,  
Ere that poore soule to aske his almes hath  
He first doth chafe & sweare beyond all measure, (leisure,  
And for the Beadle all about he sends,  
To beare him to *Bridewell*, so he pretends,  
The beggar out of sight doth goe,  
Full glad in heart he hath escaped so.

Then *Quintus* laughes, & thinks it is lesse charges,  
To sweare an oath or two, then giue a larges.

---

### *Of Marcus his drunken feasting.*

18 **W**Hen *Marcus* makes (as oft he doth) a feast,  
The wine stil costs him more the all the rest.  
Were water in this towne as deare as hay,  
His horses should not long at liuery stay.  
But tell me, is't not a most foolish tricke,  
To drinke to others healths till thou be sicke?  
Yet such the fashion is of Bacchus crue,  
To quaffe and bowze, vntil they belch and spue.  
Well, leaue it *Marcus*, else thy drinking health,  
Will proue an eating to thy wit and wealth.

---

### *Of kissing the cheeke.*

19 **I**S't for a grace? or is't for some dislike?  
When others kisse with lip, you giue the cheeke;  
Some note it for a pride in your behaviour:  
But I would rather take it for a fauour;



## EPIGRAMS.

For I to know my kindnesse and my loue,  
Will leaue both lippe and cheeke, to kisse your gloue.  
If with my reason you would be acquainted,  
Your glou's perfum'd, your lip and cheeke are painted.

---

### *Of kissing the foote.*

21 **A** Courtier, kind in speech, curst in condition,  
Finding his fault could be no longer hidden,  
Went to his friend to cleere his hard suspition,  
And fearing lest he might be more then chidden,  
Fell to a flattering and most base submission,  
Vowing to kisse his foote, if he were bidden.  
My foot? (said he) that were too submisse:  
But three foot higher you deserue to kisse.

---

### *Of a sawcy Cator.*

22 **A** Cator had of late some wild fowle bought,  
And when vnto his Master them he brought,  
Forthwith the Master smelling nigh the rump,  
Said, Out, thou knaue, these fauour of the pump.  
The man (that was a rude and sawcy lout)  
What sir, said he, smell you them thereabout?  
Smell your fayre Lady there, and by your fauour,  
Your fortune may meet with a fulsome fauour.

---

### *Of a certaine Man.*

23 **T** Here was (not certain when) a certain preacher,  
That neuer learn'd, and yet became a Teacher,  
Who hauing read in Latin thus a text  
Of *erat quidam homo*, much perplext,  
He seem'd the same with study great to scan  
In English thus: *there was a certaine man.*  
But now (quoth hee) good people, note you this,  
He saith there was, hee doth not say there is:  
For in these daies of ours, it is most certaine,  
Of promise, oath, word, deed, no man is certaine:

Yet



## EPIGRAMS.

Yet by my text you see it comes to passe,  
That surely once a certaine man there was.  
But yet I thinke, in all your Bible no man  
Can find this text; *there was a certain woman.*

---

### *Of Lesbia.*

24 **O** Ld widdow *Lesbia*, after husbands fūe,  
Yet feeleth Cupids flames in her reuiue.  
And now she takes a gallant youth and trim.  
Alas for her, nay, nay, alas for him.

---

### *The horne Cinque-apace.*

25 **W** Ho wishes, hopes, & thinks, his wife is true,  
To him one horne, or vnicorne is due.  
Who sees his wife play false, & wil not spy  
He hath two horns, and yet he may deny it. (it,  
The man that can indure when all men scorn,  
And pardon open faults, hath treble horne;  
Who brings fine Courtiers oft to see his bride,  
He hath one paire of hornes on either side.  
But he that sweares he did so happy wiue,  
He can be none of these, let him haue fūe.

---

### *Of cursing Cuckolds.*

26 **A** Lord that talked late in way of scorne,  
Of some that ware inuisibly the horne;  
Said he could wish, and did (as for his part)  
All Cuckolds in the Thames, with all his heart.  
But straight a pleasant Knight reply'd to him,  
I hope your Lordship learned hath to swimme.

---

### *Of the Pillers of the Church.*

27 **I** N old time they were the Churches pillers,  
That did excell in learning and in piety,  
And were to youth examples of sobriety,  
Of Christs faire field: the true and painefull tillers;

But



## EPIGRAMS.

But where are now the men of that society?  
Are all those tillers dead? those pillars broken?  
No, God forbid such blasphemy bee spoken;  
I say, to stop the mouthes of all ill willers,  
Gods field hath harrowers still, his Church hath pillars.

---

### *Of Exchange.*

28 **O** I. d *Caius* sold a wench, to buy a barke.  
Young *Titus* gaue the ship, to haue the slut.  
Who makes the better mart, now let vs mark,  
T'one goes to roue, the tother goes to rut,

---

### *Of Lesbias kissing craft.*

29 **L** *Esbia* with study found a means in th'end,  
In presence of her Lord to kisse her friend,  
Each of them kist by turnes a little Whelpe,  
Transporting kisses thus by puppies helpe.  
And so her good old Lord shee did beguile.  
Was not my Lord a puppy all the while?

---

### *Of fixe sorts of Fasters.*

*Abstinēt.*

*Ager.*

*Egens.*

*Cupidus.*

*Gula.*

*Simia.*

*Virtus.*

30 **S** Ixe sorts of folks I find vse fasting dayes,  
But of these fixe, the sixt I onely prayse.  
The sick man fasts, because he cānot eat  
The poore doth fast, because he hath no meat.  
The miser fasts, with mind to mend his store.  
The glutton, with intent to eat the more.  
The hypocrite, thereby to seeme more holy.  
The vertuous, to preuent or punish folly.  
Now he that cateth fast, and drinks as fast,  
May match these fasters, any but the last.

---

### *Of Cinna.*

31 **P** Vre *Cinna* gets his wife a mayden cooke  
With red cheeks, yellow locks, & cheerful looke.  
What might he meane hereby? I hold my life,  
She dresseth flesh for him, not for his wife.



## EPIGRAMS.

*Of one that tooke thought for his wife.*

32 **N**O sooner Cinna's wife was dead and buried,  
But that with mourning much, & sorrow wea-  
A maid, a seruāt of his wiues he wedded, (ried,  
And after he had boorded her and bedded,  
And in her Mistres roome had fully plast her,  
His wiues old seruant waxed his new master.

*A rule for play.*

33 **L**Ay down your stake at play, lay down your pas-  
A greedy gamester hath still some mishap. (sion  
To chafe at play, proceeds of foolish fashion.  
No man throwes still the dice in fortunes lap.

*Of a drunken Tobacconist.*

(sacke,

34 **W**Hen *Marcus* hath carrowst March beere &  
And that his brains grow dizzy therewithal,  
Then of Tobacco he a pipe doth lacke,  
Of Trinidade in cane, in leafe or ball,  
Which tane a little, he doth spit and smacke,  
Then layes him on his bed for feare to fall,  
And poore Tobacco beares the name of all.  
But that same pipe which *Marcus* braine did lade,  
Was of *Medera*, not of Trinidade.

*Tristis es & foelix, sciat hoc fortuna. Caueto.*

*To a Lady.*

35 **F**Roward yet fortunate? if fortune knew it,  
Belceue me, Madam, she would make you rue it.

*The Author to his wife.*

36 **W**Hen I to thee my letters superscribe,  
Thus, *To mine own: Leda* thereat doth gibe,  
And ask her why? she saith, because I flatter  
But let her thinke so still, it makes no matter.



## EPIGRAMS.

If I doe flatter, onely thou canst trie,  
It me contents, to thinke I doe not lye.  
But let her husband write so, for my life,  
He flattereth himselfe more then his wife.

---

### *A Salisbury tale.*

37 **F**Aire *Sarum's* Church, beside the stately Tower,  
Hath many things in number aptly sorted,  
Answering the yeere, the month, weeke, day and  
But about all, (as I haue heard reported, (hower,  
And to the view doth probably appeare)  
A piller for each hower in all the yeere.  
Further, this Church of *Sarum* hath bin found,  
To keepe in singing seruice so good forme,  
That most Cathedral Churches haue bin bound,  
Themselues *ad vsum Sarum* to conforme:  
I am no Cabalist to iudge by number,  
Yet that this Church is so with pillers filld,  
It seemes to me to be the lesser wonder,  
That *Sarums* Church is euery hower pilld.  
And sith the rest are bound to *Sarums* vse,  
What maruell if they taste of like abuse?

---

### *How the Deuill eats Fryers.*

38 **T**He Germans haue a by-word at this howre,  
In Tabliture by Painters skill exprest,  
That Sathan dayly Fryers doth deuoure,  
Which in short time he doth so well digest,  
That passing downe to his posterior parts,  
He souldiers thence vnto the world deliuers,  
And forth they come al arm'd with pikes & darts  
With halberts, swords, & muskets and Calieuers:  
According to which Lutheran opinions,  
They that deuoure whole Churches & their rents  
I meane these fauourites and courtly minions,  
Voyd forts and castles in their excrements.



## EPIGRAMS.

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### *Of a blinde Leacher.*

39 **O** Fall this towne, old *Codrus* giues most credit  
Who he? alas poore soule that ere you sed it.  
What credite can he giue that is so poore?  
Hee's blind, yet makes he loue to euery whore.

---

### *Of a fayre Shrew.*

40 **F** Aire, rich and young? how rare is her perfection,  
Were it not mingled with one foule infection?  
I mean, so proud a heart, so curst a tongue,  
As makes her seeme, nor faire, nor rich, nor young.

---

### *A Stratagem of a Tobaccopipe.*

41 **V** Nto a gentle Gentlewomans chamber,  
A Pedler came (her husband being thence)  
To sell fine linnen, lawne, and musk, & amber;  
She franke of fauour, sparing of expence,  
So bargain'd with him ere hee parted thence;  
That for ten yards of holland, fise of lawne.  
To grant dishonest pleasures she was drawn.  
Next day the man repenting of his cost,  
Did seeke som meanes to get him restitution,  
Or to be paid for that he there had lost.  
And thus he put the same in execution,  
He turnes to her with settled resolution,  
And in her husbands presence vnawares,  
He asketh fifty shillings for his wares.  
Her husband (ignorant what cause had bred it;)   
Why wife, said he, had you so spent your store,  
You must with petty chapmen run on credit?  
Now for mine honours sake do so no more.  
No sir, said she, I meant it to restore:  
I tooke it of him onely for a triall,  
And find it too high prized by a ryall.  
So neuer changing countenance, she doth rise



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With outward silence, inward anger choking,  
And going to her closet, she espies  
Tobacco in a Pipe yet newly smoking,  
She takes the Pipe, her anger her prouoking,  
And laps it in the linnen, comming backe,  
And so the Pedler puts it in his packe,  
And packs away, and ioyes that with this wile,  
He had regain'd his stufte, yet gain'd his pleasure;  
But hauing walked scarcely halfe a mile,  
His pack did smoake, and smel so out of measure,  
That opening it, vnto his deepe displeasure,  
He found by that Tobacco pipe too late,  
The fiery force of feeble femall hate.  
And seeking then some remedy by Lawes,  
Vnto a neighbour-Iustice he complaines.  
But when the Iustice vnderstood the cause,  
In her examination taking paines,  
He found 'twas but a fetch of womens braines:  
The cause dismiss, he bids the man beware,  
To deale with women that can burn his ware.

---

### *Of Gods part.*

42 **O** Ne that had farm'd a fat Impropriation,  
Vf'd to his neighbours often exhortation,  
To pay to him the tithes and profits duly,  
Affirming (as he might affirme most truly)  
How that the tithes are God almighties part,  
And therefore they should pay't with al their hart.  
But straight replied one among the rest,  
(One that had crost him oft, but neuer blest)  
It is Gods part indeed, whose goodnesse gaue it;  
But yet oft times we see the Deuill haue it.

---

### *Of Lalus symoniacall horse-coursing.*

43 **P** Vre Lalus gate a Benefice of late,  
Without offence of people, Church or State;  
Yea



## EPIGRAMS.

Yea but aske eccho how he did come by it,  
 Come buy it? no with oathes he will deny it.  
 He nothing gaue direct or indirectly.  
 Fie, *Lalus*, now you tell vs a direct lie:  
 Did not your Patron for an hundred pound,  
 Sell you a horse was neyther young nor sound,  
 No Turke, no Courser, Barbary, nor Iennit?  
 Simony? no, but I see money in it.  
 Well, if it were but so, the case is cleare;  
 The Benefice was cheape, the horse was deare.

*An addition to the same Epigram.*

44 **P**eter for Westminster, and Paul for London,  
 Lament, for both your Churches will be vndone;  
 If Smithfield find a fetch forth of a stable,  
 Lawes to delude, and Lords of Councell table.

The same in Latin by the Author.

**N**Ec populo infenso, nec ruptis legibus ullis,  
*Lalus* noster habet pingue sacerdotium,  
 Unde sed hoc venit, vanit tibi personet ec-  
 Eccho, mi sodes, dicito an emit, emit. (cho,  
*Ilia* ducentem, fractumq; : senilibus annis  
 Illi patronus vendit auarus equum,  
 Aurea pro vetulo dat bis centena caballo,  
 Cui nec Turca pater, nec patria Italia est:  
 Ergo sacerdotium Regina pecunia donat,  
 Magno equitat pretio, predicat exiguo.

*Addicio.*

*Iam* vos templorum properam sperare ruinam,  
 Et tu Petre tui, tu quoq; Paule, tui  
 Sordida fabрили si nata astutia campo,  
 Legibus & sanctis patribus imposuit.



## EPIGRAMS.

---

### *Of a lawfull wife.*

- 45 **A**T end of three yeers sute of law and strife; (her,  
When Canon lawes & common both cōmand  
Sue wedded thee, now sue them for a slander,  
That dare deny she is thy lawfull wife.
- 

### *Of a Booke called the Gentle Craft.*

- 46 **I**Past this other day through *Pauls* Churchyard,  
And heard some read a booke, and reading laught.  
The title of the booke was gentle Craft.  
But when I markt the matter with regard,  
A new-sprung branch that in my mind did graft,  
And thus I sayd, Sirs, scorne not him that writ it:  
A gilded blade hath oft a dudgeon haft,  
And well I see, this writer roues a shaft  
Neere fayrest marke, yet happily not hit it.  
For neuer was the like booke sold in Poules,  
If so with Gentle craft it could perswade  
Great Princes midst their pomp to learn a trade,  
Once in their liues to worke, to mend their soules.
- 

### *Of bagge and baggage.*

- 47 **A**Man appointed, vpon losse of life,  
With bag and baggage at a time assign'd,  
To part a towne; his foule vnweildy wife  
Desired him that she might stay behind.  
Nay (quoth the man) Ile neuer be so kind,  
As venture life, for such an vgly hag  
That looks both like a baggage and a bag.
- 

### *Of a womans kindnesse to her husband.*

- 48 **O**Ne that had liued long by lewdest shifts,  
Brought to the Court that Corne from cockle  
Starchamber that of Iustice is the mirror, (sifts,  
Was senten't there, and for the greater terror,

Adiudged



## EPIGRAMS.

A diudged, first to lye a yeare in fetters,  
Then burned in his forehead with two letters,  
And to disparage him with more disgrace,  
To slit his nose, the figure of his face.  
The prisoners wife, with no dishonest mind,  
To shew her selfe vnto her husband kind,  
Sued humbly to the Lords, and would not cease,  
Some part of his sharpe rigour to release.  
He was a man (she said) had seru'd in warre,  
What mercy would a Souldiers face so marre?  
Thus much said she: but grauely they replied,  
It was great mercy that he thus was tryed:  
His crimes deserue, he should haue lost his life,  
And hang in chaines. Alas reply'd the wife,  
If you disgrace him thus, you quite vndo him,  
Good my Lords hang him, pray be good vnto him.

---

### *Of Don Pedro.*

49 **D** *On Pedro* neuer dines without red Deere;  
If red Deere be his guests, grasse is his cheere.  
I but I meane, he hath it in his dish,  
And so haue I oft what I do not wish.

---

### *The Author to his wife.*

50 **M** *All*, once in pleasant company by chance,  
I wisht that you for company would dance,  
Which you refus'd, & said, your years require,  
Now, Matron-like, both manners and attire.  
Well *Mall*, if needs thou wilt be Matron-like,  
Then trust to this, I will a Matron like:  
Yet so to you my loue may neuer lessen,  
As you for church, house, bed, obserue this lesson.  
Sit in the Church as solemne as a Saint,  
No deed, word, thought, your due deuotion taint.  
Vaile (if you will) your head, your soule reueale  
To him, that onely wounded soules can heale.

Be



## EPIGRAMS.

Be in my house as busie as a Bee,  
Hauing a sting for euery one but mee,  
Buzzing in euery corner, gathering hony.  
Let nothing waste, that costs or yeeldeth money.  
And when thou seest my heart to mirth incline,  
The tongue, wit, bloud, warme with good cheere & wine:  
Then of sweet sports let no occasion scape,  
But be as wanton, toying as an ape.

---

### *Of Lelia.*

51 **W**Hen louely *Lelia* was a tender gyrl,  
She hapt to be deflowred by an Earle;  
Alas, poore wench, she was to be excused,  
Such kindnesse oft is offered, seeld refused.  
But be not proud; for shee that is no Countesse,  
And yet lies with a Count, must make account this,  
All Countesses in honour her surmount,  
They haue, she had, an honourable Count.

---

### *Of a drunken Smith.*

52 **I** Heard that *Smug* the Smith, for ale and spice,  
Sold all his tooles, and yet he kept his vice.

---

### *Of Lynus borrowing.*

53 **V**V Hen *Lynus* meets me, after salutations,  
Curtesies, cōplements, & gratulations,  
He presseth me vnto the third deniall,  
To lend him twenty shillings, or a ryall:  
But with his curt'sies of his purpose fayling,  
He goes behind my backe, cursing and rayling.  
Foole, thy kind speeches cost not thee a penny,  
And more foole I, if they should cost me enny.

*Of*



## EPIGRAMS.

### *Of Don Pedro.*

54 **T**He wise *Vlisses* loathing forraine iarres, (wars:  
Faign'd himselfe mad, to keepe him from the  
But our *Don Pedro* sees our Martiall schooles,  
Preferre, before wise cowards, Valiant fooles:  
And fearing feigning mad will not suffice,  
To keepe him from the wars, feigns himselfe wise.

### *Of a Cuckold that had a chaste wife.*

55 **W**Hen the *Triumvirs* set their three mans song  
That stablished in Rome a hellish Trinity,  
Who all the town, nay all the world did  
With killing friends, and kin of their affinity, (wrong,  
By Tripartite Indenture parting Rome,  
As if for them the world had wanted roome:

*Plotina*, wife to one of that same hundred,  
Whom *Anthony* proscrib'd to lose their life,  
For beauty much, for loue to be more wondred,  
Sued for her spouse, and told she was his wife.

The Tyrant pleas'd to see so braue a suter,  
Doth kisse her, and imbrace her, & salute her,  
And makes (nay mocks) a loue too kind, too cruel  
She must, to saue her husband from proscription,  
Grant him one night, to weare his chiefest Iewell,  
And what he meant, he showd by lewd description,  
Vowing, except he might his pleasure haue,  
No means should serue, her husbands life to saue.  
Oh motion mouing thoughts, no thoughts, but thornes!  
For he must die, whom she esteemes most dearly,  
Or she her selfe subiect to thousand scorns;  
Both feares to touch a noble matron neerely.

Yet lo, an act performed by this woman,  
Worthy a woman, worthy more a Roman.  
To shew more then her selfe, she lou'd her spouse,  
She yeelds her body to this execution.

D

Come



EPIGRAMS.

Come, tyrant come, performe thy damned vowes;  
Her single heart hath doubled thy pollution;  
Thou her pollute? no foole, thou art beguiled,  
She in thy filthy lap lies vndefiled.  
Wonder of Matrons, of all wiues a mirrour,  
He sweare with thee, thy husband weares no horn.  
But if this act conuince mine oath of errour,  
It is a precious one, an Vnicorne.  
For ought I know by hearing, or by reading,  
This act *Lucretia's* death was farre exceeding.

---

*Of friendshippe.*

56 **N**ew friends are no friends; how can that be true?  
The oldest friends that are, were sometimes new.

---

*Of Caius increase in his absence.*

57 **W**hile *Caius* doth remaine beyond the seas,  
And follows there some great importāt fute,  
His lands bare neyther otes, nor beans, nor  
But yet his wife beares faire and full growne fruit. (pease,  
What is the cause that brings his lands sterility,  
And his wiues fruitfulnessse, and great fertility?  
His lands want occupiers, to manure them,  
But she hath store, and knowes how to procure them.

---

*Of a toothlesse Shrew.*

58 **O**ld *Ellen* had foure teeth, as I remember,  
She cough't out two of the last December;  
But this shrewd cough in her raignd so vnruely,  
She cought out tother two before twas Iuly.  
Now she may cough her heart out, for in sooth,  
The sayde shrewde cough hath left her ne're a tooth.  
But her curst tongue, wanting this common curbe,  
Doth more then erst the household all disturbe.



## EPIGRAMS.

*To Doctor Sharpe.*

59 **L** Ate I tooke leaue of two right noble dames,  
And hasted to my wife as I protested :  
You will'd me stay a while, and thus you iested:  
You sir, may please your Wife with Epigrams.  
Well said, twas Doctor-like, and sharpely spoken:  
No friendship breakes, where iests so smooth are broken.  
But now you haue new orders tane of late,  
Those orders, which (as you expound *Saint Paul*)  
Are equall honourable vnto all;  
I meane of marriage the holy state,  
I hope in Lent, when flesh growes out of date,  
You will, in stead of tother recreation,  
Be glad to please your wife with some collation.

*Of the Papists Feasts, and the Brownists Fasts.*

60 **A** Papist dwelling to a Brownist neere,  
Their seruants met, and vanted of their cheere.  
And first, the Papists man did make his boist,  
He had each festiuall both bak't and roist,  
And where (said he) your zealous sort allow,  
On Christmasse day it selfe to go to plow,  
We feast, & play, and walke, & talke, aud slumber;  
Besides, our holy dayes are more in number:  
As namely, we do keepe with great festiuity,  
Our Ladies, both assumption and natiuity;  
*S. Pauls* conuerfion, *S. Johns* decollation,  
*S. Lawrence* broyld, *S. Swythens* moyst translation,  
*S. Peters* chaines, and how with Angels vision  
He brake the prison, quite without misprison.  
I grant, the tother said, you seeme more gainfome,  
But for your sport, you pay too deare a ransome.  
We like your feasts, your fastings bred our greeues  
Your Lents, your Ember weekes, and holy Eeues.  
But this coniunction I should greatly prayse,  
The Brownists fasts, with Papists holy dayes.



## EPIGRAMS.

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### *Of Milo the Glutton.*

61 **M**ilo with haste to cram his greedy gut  
One of his thumbs vnto the bone had cut.  
Then straight it noysed was about by some,  
That he had lost his stomacke with his thumbe.  
To which one said, No worse hap fall vnto him,  
But if a poore man finde it, t'will vndoe him.

---

### *To a Wittoll Broker.*

62 **I** See thee sell swords, pistols, clokes and gownes,  
Doublets and hose, and they that pay thee crownes,  
Doe as tis reason, beare away thy ware,  
Which to supply, is thy continuall care.  
But thy wiues ware, a better rate doth hold,  
Which though it be to diuers dayly sold,  
Yet lasteth all the yeare, and doth not finish,  
Nor doth the same ought lessen or diminish.

---

### *Of Fortune.*

63 **F**ortune (men say) doth giue too much to many:  
But yet she neuer gaue enough to any.

---

### *Of Deuotion and Promotion.*

64 **I** Met a Lawyer at the Court this Lent,  
And asking what great cause him thither sent,  
He said, that mou'd with Doctor *Androes* fame,  
To heare him preach, he onely thither came:  
But straight I wisht him softly in his eare,  
To find some other scuse, else some will sweare,  
Who to the Court come onely for deuotion,  
They in the Church pray onely for promotion.

---

### *A good iest of a Crow.*

65 **A** Baron and a Knight one day were walking  
On Richmond green, & as they were in talking,  
A



## EPIGRAMS.

A Crow, that lighted on the raile by Fortune,  
Stood becking, and cry'd ~~kan~~ with noyse importune.  
This bird, the Baron said, doth you salute,  
Sir Knight, as if to you he had some sute.  
Not vnto me, the Knight reply'd in pleasance,  
Tis to some Lord he makes so low obeysance.

---

### *Of a painted Lady.*

66 **I** Saw dame *Leda's* picture lately drawne,  
With haire about her eares, transparent Lawne,  
Her yuory paps, and euery other part,  
So lim'd vnto the life, by Painters art,  
That I that had beene long with her acquainted,  
Did think that both were quicke, or both were painted.

---

### *Of Galla's gallantry.*

67 **W** Hat is the cause our *Galla* is so gallant,  
Like ship in fayrest wind, top & top gallant?  
Hath shee of late bin courted by some Gal-  
No sure, how then? *Galla* hath quast a gallon. (lant?

---

### *In Cornutum.*

68 **A** *Thais?* no, *Diana* thou didst wed:  
For she hath giuen to thee *Acteons* head.

---

### *The Author of himselfe.*

69 **B** Ecause in this my selfe contenting vaine,  
To write so many toyes, I take some leasure,  
Friends sorrow, fearing I take too much paine,  
Foes enuy, swearing I take too much pleasure:  
I smile at both, and wish, to ease their griefe,  
That each with other would but change beleeefe.



## EPIGRAMS.

### Of Swearing first.

70 **C** IS, by this Candle, in my sleepe me-thought,  
 One told me, of thy body thou wert nought.  
 Good husband, he that told you lyed, shee sed,  
 And swearing, laid her hand vpon the bread.  
 Then eat the bread (quoth he) that I may deeme  
 That fancy false, which true to me did seeme.  
 Nay sir (said she) the matter right ro handle,  
 Sith you sware first, you first must eat the candle.

### Of Paulus a flatterer.

71 **N** O man more scruple, no man more submisse,  
 Then to our Soueraigne Lady *Paulus* is.  
 He doth extoll her speech, admire her feature,  
 He calls himselfe her vassall, and her creature;  
 Thus while he daubs his speech with flatteries plaster,  
 And calls himselfe her slave, he growes our Master.  
 Still getting what he list without controule,  
 By singing this old song, *re, mi, fa, sol.*

### Of Lynus an ill ghest.

72 **A** Ske you what profite *Kew* to me doth yeeld?  
 This *Lynus*, there I shall see thee but seeld;  
 For where good ghests may take a cottage  
 There such as thou do make a palace hatefull. (gratefull;

### Against Pius Quintus that excommunicated Queene Elizabeth.

73 **A** Re Kings your Foster Fathers, Queenes your  
 Oh Roman Church? Then why did *Pius Quintus*  
 With Basan bulls (not like one *pious intus*)  
 Lay on our sacred Prince vnhalloved curses?  
 It is not health of soules, but wealth of purses  
 You seeke, by such your hell denouncing threatens,  
 Oppugning with your chaire, our Princes seates,

Distur-



## EPIGRAMS.

Disturbing our sweet peace; and that which worse is,  
You sucke out bloud, and bite your nurses teats.

Learne, learne, to aske your milke, for if you snatch it,  
The nurse must send your babes pap with a hatchet.

---

### *Of finding a hare.*

74 **A** Gallant full of life, and voyd of care,  
Asked his friend if he would find a hare? (care,  
He that for sleepe, more then such sports did  
Said, Go your wayes, and leaue me here alone;  
Let them find hares that lost them, I lost none.

---

### *Of Merit, and Demerit.*

75 **A** Knight and valiant seruitor of late,  
Playn'd to a Lord and Counsellor of state,  
That Captains in these daies were not regarded,  
That onely Carpet Knights were well rewarded:  
For I, saith he, with all my hurts and maimes,  
Get not the recompence my merite claymes.  
Good cozen (sayd the Lord) the fault is yours,  
Which you impute vnto the higher powers.  
For where you should in *Pater noster* pray,  
Giue vnto vs, our dayly bread to day;  
Your misdemeanors this petition needs,  
*Our trespasses forgine vs, and mis-deeds.*

---

### *Of Praying.*

76 **A** Captaine late arriu'd from losse of Sluce,  
Hearing a friend of mine did him abuse, (next:  
Vow'd he would pay him, when he met him  
Whereat my friend doth seeme no whit perplext,  
But prayes the promise faile not of fulfilling,  
For three yeeres past, he lent him forty shilling.



## EPIGRAMS.

---

### *Of Faustus Esquire.*

77 **F** *Austus* for taking of a wrong possession,  
Was by a Iustice bound vnto the session:  
The Cryer the Recognizance doth call,  
*Faustus* Esquire, come forth into the Hall.  
Out (said the Iudge) on all such foolish Cryers.  
Deuils are Carpenters, where such are Squiers.

---

### *Of Peleus friendship.*

78 **W** Hen *Peleus* is brought vp to London streets,  
By Proces first to answere waighty sutes,  
Oh then, how kind he is to all he meetes!  
How friendly by their names he them salutes!  
Then one shall haue a Colt of his best race,  
Another gets a warrant for a Bucke:  
Some deeper brib'd, according to their place,  
May serue his turne, to worke or wish good luck.  
But when his troubles all to end are brought  
By time, or friendly pains on his behalfe,  
Then straight (as if he set vs all at nought)  
His kindnesse is not now so much by halfe.  
Sith then his suites in Law, his friendship doubles,  
I for his friendships sake, could wish him troubles.

---

### *Of inclosing a Common.*

79 **A** Lord that purpos'd for his more auayle,  
To compasse in a Common with a rayle,  
Was reckoning with his friend about the cost  
And charge of euery rayle, and euery post:  
But he (that wisht his greedy humour crost)  
Sayd, Sir, prouide you posts, and without fayling,  
Your neighbours round about, will find you rayling.

*The*



## EPIGRAMS.

*The Author to his wife of too much stomacke.*

80 **L** Ate hauing been a Fishing at the Foord,  
And bringing home with me my dish of Trouts,  
Your mind that while, did cast some causelesse  
For while that meat was set vpon the boord, (doubts:  
You sullen silent, fed your selfe with powts.  
I twise sent for you, but you sent me word,  
How that you had no stomacke to your meat.  
Well, I fear'd more, your stomacke was too great.

*A witty choyce of a Country fellow.*

81 **A** Rich Lord had a poore Lout to his ghest,  
And hauing sumptuous fare, and costly drest,  
Caru'd him a wing of a most dainty bird;  
Affirming seriously vpon his word,  
Those birds were sent him from his louing cozen.  
And were well worthy twenty marks a dozen.  
He that for such great dainties did not care,  
Said, I like well your Lordships courser fare:  
For I can eate your Beeffe, Pig, Goose and Cony.  
But of such fare, giue me my share in mony.

*To a great Magistrate, in Re and in Spe.*

82 **T** hose that for Princes goods do take some paine,  
(Their goods to who of right all pains we owe)  
Seeke some reward for seruice good to gaine,  
Which oft their gracious goodnesse doth bestow:  
I for my trauell, beg not a reward,  
I beg lesse by a sillable, a Ward.

*A comparison of a Booke, with Cheese.*

83 **O** ld Haywood writes & proues in some degrees,  
That one may well copare a booke with cheese:  
At euery market some buy cheese to feed on,  
At euery mart some men buy books to read on.



EPIGRAMS.

All sorts eate cheefe; but how? there is the question,  
The poore for food, the rich for good digestion.  
All sorts read books, but why? will you discern?  
The foole to laugh, the wiser sort to learne.  
The sight, taste, sent of cheefe, to some is hatefull,  
The sight, taste, sence of books to som's vngrateful.  
No cheefe there was, that euer pleas'd all feeders,  
No booke there is, that euer lik't all readers.

---

*In Balbum.*

84 **B** *Albus*, of Writers reckoning vp a rabble,  
Thinks that by him they are made honourable:  
And not vouchsafing me to name at all,  
He thinks that he hath greeu'd me to the gall.  
I galld? no, simple fellow, thou art gulled,  
To thinke I weigh the prayse of such a dull-head.  
Then learne to know this rule, yee enuious Elues,  
Bookes are not pray'd, except they prayse themselves.

---

*To beggers of bookes.*

85 **M**Y friend, you presse me very hard,  
my bookes of me you craue;  
I haue none, but in *Pauls* Church-yard  
for many you may haue.  
But why should I my coyns bestow,  
such toyes as these to buy?  
I am not such a foole I trow:  
forsooth no more am I.

---

*In Paulum Atbainum.*

86 **P**roud *Paulus* led by Sadduces infection,  
Doth not beleue the bodies resurrection,  
But holds them all in scorne and deepe derision,  
That talke of Saints or Angels apparition;  
And saith, they are but fables all, and fanfies  
Of Lunatics, or folks posses't with frensies.

*I haue*



## EPIGRAMS.

I haue (saith he) traueled both neere and farre,  
By land, by sea, in time of peace and warre,  
Yet neuer met I spirit, or ghost, or Elfe,  
Or ought (as is the phrase) worse then my selfe.  
Well, *Paulus*, this I now beleeue indeed,  
That who in all, or part denies his Creed;  
Went he to sea, land, hell, I would agree,  
A Fiend worse then himselfe, he could not see.

---

### *Of double Fraud.*

87 **A** Fellow false, and to all fraud inured,  
In high Starchamber court was found periured,  
And by iust sentence iudg'd to lose his eares:  
A doome right fit for him that falsly sweares.  
Now on the Pillory while he was pearching;  
The Gaoler busie for his eares was searching:  
But all in vaine, for there was not an eare,  
Onely the places hid with locks of haire.  
Thou knaue, said he, I will of thee complaine  
Vnto the Lords, for cousonage againe.  
Why so, said he? their order me doth bind,  
To lose mine eares, not you mine eares to find.

---

### *The Hermaphrodite translated into English.*

88 **W**hen first my mother bare me in her womb,  
She went to make enquiry of the Gods,  
First of my birth, and after of my Tombe,  
All answer'd right, but all their words had ods,  
*Phœbus* affirm'd, a male child should be born,  
*Mars* said, it should be femall; *Iuno*, neyther.  
Then came I forth, alas, to natures scorne,  
Hermaphrodite, as much as both together.  
Then for my death, *Iuno* foretolde the sword,  
*Phœbus* affirmed drowning for my fate:  
*Mars* threatned hanging, ech perform'd his word,  
As marke how all fell out in seuerall rate.



## EPIGRAMS.

A tree fast by a brooke, I needs would clime,  
My sword fell out, and while no heed I tooke,  
My side fell on the poynt, and at that time,  
My foot, in boughes, my head hung in the brooke.  
So I being borne, nor male, nor female neither,  
Died drown'd, and hang'd, and wounded all together.

---

*Of Titus a good fellow.*

89 **A** Boone companion *Titus* all his dayes,  
And till his last, of pleasant wit and tongue,  
If he had heard a man his owne strength prayse,  
Would tell what he would doe when he was young.  
And hauing first, with oathes his speeches bound,  
Thus would he speake; I would at twelue score pricks  
Haue shot all day an arrow of a pound,  
And shot the flight full forty score and sixe,  
I would haue ouerlified all the Guard,  
Out-thrown them at the bar, the sledge, the stone,  
And him that is in wrestling held most hard,  
I would in open fields haue ouerthrowne.  
Then say some by, was *Titus* ere so strong?  
Who he? the weakest man hundreds among;  
Why tels he then such lies in serious sort,  
What he could do? nay sure, tis true, though sport?  
He saith not, that he could doe; that were a fable:  
He saith, he would haue done, had he been able.

---

*The Author to his wife.*

90 **Y** Our maid *Brumetta* you with newes acquaints,  
How *Leda* (whom her husband wanting issue,  
Brought erst to Birth, our pilgrimage of Saints)  
Weares her gowne vehet, kittle, cloth of tiffue,  
A figur'd Sattin petticote Carnation,  
With fixe gold parchment laces all in fashion,  
Yet neuer was Dame *Leda* nobler borne,  
Nor dranke in Gossips cup by Sou'eraigne sent.

Nor



EPIGRAMS.

Nor euer was her Highnesse woman sworne,  
Nor doth her husband much exceed in rent.

Then *Mall* be proud, that thou maist better weare them.  
And I more proud, thou better dost forbear them.

---

*Of Southsaying.*

91 **M**ight Kings shun future mischiefe by foretelling,  
Then amongst Soothsayers, twere excellent dwell-  
But if there be no meanes such harmes repelling, (ling :  
The knowledge makes the sorrow more excellling.  
But this, deare Soueraigne, me comfort doth,  
That of these Soothsayers, very few say sooth.

---

*Of too high commendation in a meane person.*

92 **A** Scholler once, to win his Mistresse loue,  
Compar'd her to three Goddeses aboue,  
And said, she had (to giue her due defarts)  
*Iuno's, Minerva's, and fayre Venus parts.*  
*Iuno* so proud, and curst was of her tongue,  
All men misliked her, both old and young.  
*Pallas* so foule, and grim was out of measure,  
That neyther gods nor men in her tooke pleasure.  
*Venus* vnchast, that she strong *Mars* entises!  
With young *Adonis*, and with old *Anchises*.  
How thinke you, are these prayles few or mean,  
Compared to a shrow, a slut or queane?

---

*To a Lady that sayth, shee is sure to be saued.*

93 **S**ince *Leda* knew that sure she was elected, (boft,  
She weares rich cloathes, fares well, and makes her  
Her corps the Temple of the holy Ghost,  
Must be more cherished, and more respected :  
But *Leda* liueth still to sinne subiected.  
Then tell her that her ghostly Father feares,  
Vnlesse she get a mind of more submission,  
And purge those corps with hyssop of contrition,



## EPIGRAMS.

And wash her sinnefull soule with brinish teares,  
Though quailles she eat, though gold & pearle she weares,  
Yet sure she doth not with damn'd *Core* and *Dathan*,  
But feed, and clad a Synagogue of Sathan.

---

### *Of trusting a Captaine.*

94 **A**N Alderman, one of the better sort,  
And worthy member of our worthiest City;  
Vnto whose Table diuers did resort,  
Himselfe of stomacke good, of answeres witty,  
Was once requested by a Table friend,  
To lend an vnknowne Captaine twenty pound:  
The which, because he might the rather lend,  
He said, he should become in statute bound.  
And this (quoth he) you need not doubt to take,  
For hee's a man of late grown in good credit,  
And went about the world with Captaine *Drake*.  
Out (quoth the Alderman) that ere you sed it,  
For forty pounds? no, uot for forty pence.  
His single bond, I count not worth a chip:  
I say to you (take not hereat offence,)  
He that hath three whole yeares been in a ship,  
In famine, plagues, in stench, and storm, so rife,  
Cares not to lye in Ludgate all his life.

---

### *Of taking a Hare.*

95 **V**Nto a Lawyer rich, a Client poore  
Came earely in the morning to his dore,  
And dancing long attendance in the place,  
At last he gat some counsell in his case:  
For which the Lawyer lookt to haue been paid:  
But thus at last the poore man to him said,  
I cannot giue a fee, my stat's so bare:  
But will it please you, sir, to take a hare?  
He that tooke all that came, with all his heart,  
Said that he would, and take it in good part.

Then



## EPIGRAMS.

Then must you run apace (good Sir) quoth he:  
For she this morning quite outstripped me.  
He went his way, the hare was neuer taken.  
Was not the Lawyer taken, or mistaken?

---

### *In Cornutum.*

96 **W**Hat curld-pate youth is he that sitteth there  
So neere thy wife, and whispers in her eare,  
And takes her hand in his, & soft doth wring  
Sliding his ring still vp and downe her finger? (her,  
Sir, tis a Proctor, seene in both the lawes.  
Retaind by her, in some important cause;  
Prompt and discreet both in his speech and action,  
And doth her businesse with great satisfaction.  
And thinkest thou so? a horne-plague on thy head;  
Art thou so like a foole, and wittoll ledde,  
To thinke he doth the businesse of thy wife?  
He doth thy businesse, I dare lay my life.

---

### *A tragicall Epigram.*

97 **W**Hen doom of Peers & Iudges fore-appointed  
By racking lawes beyond all reach of reason,  
Had vnto death cōdemn'd a Queen anointed,  
And found, (oh strange!) without allegiance, treason;  
The axe that should haue done that execution,  
Shunn'd to cut off a head that had been crowned;  
Our hangman lost his wonted resolution,  
To quell a Queene of noblenesse so renowned.  
Ah, is remorse in hangmen and in steele,  
When Peeres and Iudges no remorse can feelee?  
Grant Lord, that in this noble Ile, a Queene  
Without a head, may neuer more be seene.

A



*A good request of a Lawyer.*

98 **A** Pleasant Lawyer standing at the barre,  
The causes done, and day not passed farre:  
A Iudge to whom he had profest deuotion,  
Aske him in grace, if he would haue a motion.  
Yes Sir, quoth he, but short, and yet not small,  
That whereas now of Saricants is a call;  
I wish (as most of my profession doe)  
That there might be a call of Clyents too:  
For sure it breeds vs Lawyers mickle cumber,  
Because of them we find so small a number.

*Of reading Scriptures.*

99 **T** He sacred Scriptures treasure great affords,  
To all of seuerall tongues, of sundry Realmes:  
For low and simple spirits shallow Foords,  
For high and learned Doctors deeper streames,  
In euery part so exquisitely made,  
An Elephant may swim, a Lambe may wade.  
Not that all should with barbarous audacity,  
Read what they list, and how they list expound,  
But each one suting to his weake capacity:  
For many great Scriptureans may be found,  
That cite Saint *Paul* at euery bench and boord,  
And haue Gods word, but haue not God the Word.

*Of Cinna.*

100 **F** Iue yeares hath *Cinna* studied Genesis,  
And knowes not what *in Principio* is;  
And greeu'd that he is grauel'd thus, he skips  
Ore all the Bible, to th' *Apocalips*.



# EPIGRAMS.

*The Author to his wife, a rule for praying.*

101 **M**Y deare, that in your closet for deuotion,  
 To kindle in your brest some godly motion,  
 You contemplate, and oft your eyes do fixe  
 On some Saints picture, or the Crucifixe;  
 Tis not amisse, be it of stone or mettle,  
 It serueth in thy mind goodthoughts to settle;  
 Such Images may serue thee as a booke,  
 Wheron thou maist with godly reuerence look  
 And thereby thy remembrance to acquaint,  
 With life or death, or vertue of the Saint.  
 Yet doe I not allow thou kneele before it,  
 Nor would I in no wise you should adore it.  
 For as such things wel vs'd, are cleane & holy,  
 So superstition soone may make it folly.  
 All images are scorn'd, and quite dishonored,  
 If the Prototype be not solely honoured.  
 I keepe thy picture in a golden shrine,  
 And I esteeme it well, because 'tis thine;  
 But let me vse thy picture ne're so kindly,  
 'Twere little worth, if I vs'd thee vnkindly.  
 Sith then, my deare, our heavenly Lord aboue  
 Vouchsafeth vnto ours to like his loue:  
 So let vs vse his picture, that therein,  
 Against himselfe we do commit no sinne;  
 Nor let vs scorn such pictures, nor deride them,  
 Like fooles, whose zeale mistaught, cannot abide them:  
 But pray, our hearts, by faith's eyes be made able  
 To see, what mortall eyes see on a Table.  
 A man would thinke, one did deserue a mocke,  
 Should say, Oh heavenly Father to a stocke,  
 Such a one were a stocke, I straight should gather,  
 That would confesse a stocke to be her Father.



*Pœnitentia pœnitenda: Of a penitent Fryer.*

102 **B**OUND by his Church, and Trentin Catechisme,  
To vow of single, life a Cloystered Frier,  
Had got a swelling, call'd a Priapisme,  
Which seld is swag'd, but with a femall fire.  
The Leach (as oftentimes Physitians vse)  
To cure the corps, not caring for the soule,  
Prescribes a cordiall medicine from the stewes.  
Which lewd prescript, the Patient did condole:  
Yet strong in faith, and being loth to dye,  
And knowing that extremes yceld dispensation,  
He is resolued, and doth the med'cine trie:  
Which being done, he made such lamentation,  
That diuers thought he was fal'n in despaire,  
And therefore for his confirmation praid.  
But when they had ended quite their praier,  
After long silence, thus to them he said:  
I waile not, that I thinke my fact so vicious,  
Nor am I in despaire: no, neuer doubt it;  
But feeling femall flesh is so delicious,  
I waile, to thinke I liu'd so long without it.

*Of a Cotsold Lyon.*

103 **W**HEN harts obdurate make of sin a habite,  
High frowning *Nemesis* was wont to send  
Beares, Lyons, Wolues and Tygars, to this  
To plague the place where such bad men inhabite. (end  
Now, sith this sinne, in habite, and in act,  
Exceeds the sinne of euery former age,  
No maruell, *Nemesis* in her iust rage  
Doth like, or greater punishment exact.  
And for that cause, a cruell beast was sent,  
Not onely that deuoures and spoiles his people,  
But pulls downe house and cottage, Church and steeple,  
Making the Widow mourne, Orphan lament.

But



## EPIGRAMS.

But will you know what beasts they be that keepe  
Such beastly rule, as ne're was seene before?  
'Tis neither Beare, nor Lion, Bull, nor Bore,  
But beasts, then all these beasts more harmfull; *Sheepe.*  
Lo then the mystery, from whence the name  
Of Cotfold Lyons, first to England came.

---

*Of a picture with a ferriman rowing in a tempest, with two Ladies in his boate, whereof he loved one, but she disdained him, and the other loved him, but hee not her; now a voice came, to his eare, that to saue his boate from being cast away, hee must drowne one of the Ladies: in which perplexity he speaketh these passions.*

104 **I**N troublous seas of loue, my tender bote,  
By Fates decree, is still tost vp and down,  
**I** Ready to sinke, and may no longer flote,  
Except of these two Damsells one I drowne.  
I would saue both: but ah, that may not be:  
I loue the tone, the tother loueth mee.  
Heere the vast waues are ready me to swallow.  
There danger is to strike vpon the shelve.  
Doubtfull I swim between the deepe and shallow,  
To saue th' vngrate, and be vngrate my selfe.  
Thus seeme I by the eares to hold a Wolfe,  
While faine I would eschue this gaping gulfe.  
But since loues actions guided are by passion,  
And quenching doth augment her burning fewell,  
Adieu, thou Nymph, deseruing most compassion,  
To merit mercy, I must shew me cruell.  
Aske you me why? oh question out of season!  
Loue neuer leisure hath to render reason.

---

### *The old mans choice.*

105 **L**Et soueraigne Reason, sitting at the sterne,  
And farre remouing all eye-blinding Passion,  
Censure the due desert with iudgement cleere,



## EPIGRAMS.

And say, the cruell merite no compassion.  
Liue then kind Nymph, and ioy we two together:  
Farewell th' vnkind, and all vnkind go with her.

---

*To one that writ a booke of dancing.*

106 **W**Hile you the Planets all do set to dancing,  
Beware such hap as to the Frier was chan-  
Who preching in a pulpit old & rottē(cing  
Amongst some notes, most fit to be forgotten,  
In stead of better matter, thus he vants,  
To make all Saints after his pipe to dance.  
But while himselfe he brauely there aduances,  
To act his speech with gesture; loe it chances,  
Down fals the Pulpit, fore the Frier was bruised:  
Neuer was Frier nor Pulpit more abused.  
So, though none feare the falling of those sparkes,  
Which when they fall, 'twill be good catching Larks:  
Yet this may fall, that while you dance and skip,  
With female Planets, so your foot may trip,  
That in your lofty Capreoll, and turne,  
Their motion may make your dimension burne.

---

*Of two Weleh Gentlemen.*

107 **T**Wo Squires of Wales arriued at a Towne,  
To seek their lodging when the sun was down;  
And (for the In-keeper his gates had locked )  
In haste, like men of some account they knocked.  
The drowzy Chamberlaine doth aske who's there?  
They told, that Gentlemen of Wales they were.  
How many (quoth the man) are there of you?  
They sayd, Heer's *Iohn ap Rees, ap Rife, ap Hew,*  
And *Nicholas ap Giles, ap Stephen, ap Dany,*  
Then Gentlemen, adieu (quoth he) God saue yee;  
Your Worships might haue had a bed or twaine.  
But how can that suffice so great a traine?



## EPIGRAMS.

*In Philautum.*

108 **Y** Our verses please your Reader oft, you vaunt it:  
If you your selfe do read them oft, I grant it.

*A happy mistake.*

109 **W** Hē Roman Mutius had in countries quarrel,  
Killed the seruant to the Masters terror,  
He said, his eies deceiu'd with rich apparel,  
Had made his hand commit that happy error.  
Perhaps it is from hence the Prouerbe springes,  
That knaues in Court goe oft as braue as Kings.

*To an old Bachelour.*

110 **Y** Ou prayse all women: well, let you alone.  
Who speakes so well of all, thinks wel of none.

*Of two that were married and vndone.*

111 **A** Fond young couple making haste to marry,  
Without their parents will, or friends consent,  
After one month their marriage did repent,  
And su'd vnto the Bishops Ordinary,  
That this their act so vndiscreetly done,  
Might by his more discretion be vndone.  
Vpon which motion he a while did pause:  
At length, he for their comforts to them sayd,  
It had been better (friends) that you had staid:  
But now you are so hampered in the Lawes,  
That I this knot may not vntye (my sonne)  
Yet I will grant you both shall be vndone.

*Of a stale commodity.*

112 **I** N Rome a Cryer had a wench to sell,  
Such as in common Stewes are wont to dwell;



## EPIGRAMS.

His name, nor hers, I shall not need to tell.  
 When he had held her long at little price,  
 Thinking at last, some Chapman to entise,  
 Hee takes her in his armes, as nothing nice,  
 And on the lips he swap't her once or twice.  
 What might he gaine (thinke you) by this deuice?  
 One that before had offred thirty shilling,  
 To giue a third part, now seem'd much vnwilling.

---

### *Of Claudia.*

113 **C** *Claudia*, to saue a noble Romans blood,  
 Was offred by som friends that wisht his good  
 A Iewell of inestimable price;  
 But she would not be won by this deuice:  
 For she did take his head, and leaue the iewell.  
 Was *Claudia* now more couetous, or cruell?

---

### *Of a Lady that desired more Curtesie, and lesse Purse.*

114 **A** Good old Lord did wed a faire young Lady,  
 Of good complexion, and of comely stature,  
 And (for he was of kind and noble nature)  
 He lou'd to see her go so braue as may be.  
 A pleasant Knight, one day was so presumptuous,  
 To tell this Lord, in way of plaine simplicity:  
 'Tis you (my Lord) that haue this worlds felicity,  
 That haue a Dame, so faire, so sweet, so sumptuous.  
 Tush (saide the Lord) but these same costly gownes,  
 With Kertles, Carknets, plague me in such sort,  
 That euery time I taste of Venus sport,  
 I will be sworn, cost's me one hundred Crownes  
 Now fye, Sir (saide his wife) where is your sence?  
 Although 'tis true, yet say not so for shame:  
 For I could wish, to cleere me of the blame,  
 That each time cost you but an hundred pence.



# EPIGRAMS.

*A Scotish versicle.*

115 **R** *Ob. Will. and Dany,*  
 Keep well thy *Pater noster* and *Aue:*  
 And if thou wilt the better speed,  
 Gang no further then thy *Creed:*  
 Say well, and doe none ill,  
 And keepe thy selfe in safety still

*In commendation of a straw, written at the request of a  
 great Lady, that ware a strawne Hat  
 at the Court.*

116 **I** Vowd to write of none but matters serious,  
 And lawfull vowes to breake, a great offence;  
 But yet, faire Ladies hefts are so imperious,  
 That with all Vowes, all Lawes they can dispence:  
 Then yelding to that all-commanding Law,  
 My muse must tell some honour of a straw.  
 Not of *Iack Straw*, with his rebellious crew,  
 That set King, Realme, and Lawes at hab or nab,  
 Whom Londons worthy Maior so brauely slew,  
 With dudgeon daggers honourable stab,  
 That his successors for that service loyall,  
 Haue yet reward with blow of weapon royall.  
 Nor will I prayse that fruitlesse straw or stubble,  
 Which built vpon most precious stones foundation,  
 When fiery trialls come, the builders trouble,  
 Thogh some great builders build of such a faskie  
 To learned *Androes*, that much better can,  
 I leaue that stubble, fire, and straw to scan.  
 Now list I with Philosophers to range,  
 In searching out, (though I admire the reason)  
 How simpathising properties, most strange,  
 Keepe contraries in straw, so long a season.  
 Ice, snow, fruits, fish, moyst things, and dry and warme.  
 Are long preferu'd in straw, with little harme.

But



## EPIGRAMS.

But let all Poets my remembrance wipe,  
From out their bookes of Fame, for euer during,  
If I forget to prayse our oaten pipe,  
Such Musicke, to the Muses all procuring:

That some learn'd eares preferr'd it haue before  
Both Orpharyon, Violl, Lute, Bandore.

Now if we list more curiously examine,  
To search in straw some profitable points,  
Bread hath been made of straw in time of famine,  
In cutting off the tender knotted ioynts:

But yet remains one prayse of straw to tell,

Which all the other prayse doth farre excell.

That straw which men and beasts, & fowles haue scorned,  
Hath been by curious Art, and hand industrious  
So wrought, that it hath shadowed, yea adorned  
A head and face of beauty, and birth illustrious.

Now prayse I? no, I enuy now thy blisse,

Ambitious straw, that so high placed is.

What Architect this worke so strangely matcht?

An yuory house, dores, rubies, windowes touch

A gilded rooffe, with straw all ouerthatcht.

Where shall pearle bide, when place of straw is such?

Now could I wish, alas, I wish too much,

I might be straw-drawne to that liuely Tuch.

But herein wee may learne a good example,

That vertuous industry their worth can raise,

Whom slanderous tongues tread vnder foot and trample.

This told my Muse; and straight she went her wayes:

Which (Lady) if you seriously allow,

It is no toy, nor haue I broke my vow.

FINIS.

